

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /143 W
----- 127895

R 061130 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5222

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0474

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MA, FR

SUBJ: EXPULSION OF FRENCH INTELLIGENCE CHIEF

1. TWO WEEKS AGO, HEAD OF GOVT GEN RAMANANTSOA, DURING TOUR OF MAJUNGA PROVINCE, ANNOUNCED EXPULSION OF " HIGH FOREIGN OFFICIAL" FROM MADAGASCAR. PRESS SHORTLY STARTED TALKING OF A FRENCH MAJOR RICHARD AS EXPELLEE.

2. DURING APRIL 5 TRIP WITH HENRI RAZAFINDRATOVO, DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO GEN RAMANANTSOA, TO SITE NEAR TULEAR OF CHEVRON SEISMIC EXPLORATION FOR OIL, I OBTAINED CONFIRMATION FROM HIM THAT RICHARD WAS EXPELLEE. RAZAFINDRATOVO PROCEEDED TELL ME, IN RESPONSE QUERY, THAT RICHARD WAS STATION CHIEF FOR INTELLIGENCE AT FRENCH EMBASSY. RAZAFINDRATOVO COMMENTED THAT RICHARD HAD BEEN CAUGHT RED- HANDED IN INTELLIGENCE OPERATION.

3. COMMENT: DISPUTE FURORE IN NATIONALIST MALAGASY PRESS, THIS INCIDENT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE HAD ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON OFFICIAL FRENCH- MALAGASY RELATIONS. IN FACT, I WOULD JUDGE FROM CONTACT WITH BOTH MALAGASY GOVT AND FRENCH EMBASSY, AS WELL AS PUBLIC REMARKS BY FONMIN RATSIRAKA ON RECENT RETURN FROM FRANCE (TANANARIVE 0437), THAT RELATIONS ARE NOW BETTER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WITH DEBRE OUT OF DEFENSE MINISTER, THERE IS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC FEELING THAT MALAGASY-FRANCO NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED WITHOUT BLOW- UP.

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MENDENHALL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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